

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER BRINGS MORE CHAOS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act becomes more apparent every day that goes by, and the problems that are contained therein. Indeed, the President's takeover of health care is delivering more chaos to our health care system.

We have 26 States that are not going to be participating in State exchanges, so a Federal exchange will be set up in those States. The complex eligibility process that citizens will have to go through, the exchange of personal information with Federal agencies that they are going to be required to provide, is truly staggering. Once an individual submits an application to an exchange, the information is then shared with Health and Human Services, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, the Treasury Department, and the IRS.

Enrollees will not only have to submit all of their information when they first enroll, but they will have to resubmit every year.

The President's law intends that exchanges will be ready by October 1. Let me tell you, the five Federal agencies that are involved in this are not forthcoming with the information that they're, in fact, on track. And, in fact, the informatics piece, the information piece that is supposed to be ready when this is all switched on in October is likely not to be ready.

There was a better way to do this. Republicans had better ideas. Governors had better ideas. The administration simply would not listen.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we have now entered the final week before the dangerous, arbitrary, and irrational policy of sequestration, which Republicans proposed first in their cut, cap, and balance bill in July of 2011.

If I were the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, that policy would not go into effect. Budget discipline is absolutely necessary, but damaging job growth in our economy to do so is self-defeating.

The only responsible way forward is for Republicans and Democrats to work together to achieve a balanced solution to deficits that can turn off the sequestration. House and Senate Democrats have each proposed balanced alternatives that combine smart, targeted cuts in spending and tax expenditures. I would hope the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR, would bring that to the floor.

While many Republicans have been praising the sequester as a viable path forward, Democrats recognize this mindless policy for the danger it is.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the sequester's consequences, and to work with Democrats to find an alternative, or, if that can't be done, to abandon this reckless policy.

We only have 4 days left to go, and our country's overall well-being depends on it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to call up H.R. 699, which is the balanced Democratic alternative to sequestration, which I know we have ample time to debate over the next few days and, hopefully, send to the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot entertain that request without appropriate clearance from both sides.

THE PRESIDENT'S SEQUESTER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of our colleague from Maryland, but I think he needs to direct them to the President, and I am going to speak to that in my 1-minute.

The editorial page of The Washington Post is not known for being critical of the President. This weekend, however, it published an op-ed by one of their most veteran reporters which should establish once and for all that the sequester—arbitrary across-the-board spending cuts that go into effect March 1—was the brainchild of the Obama administration.

Woodward writes that at 2:30 on the afternoon of July 27, 2011, White House officials Jack Lew and Rob Nabors brought up the idea of the sequester in a meeting with the Democrat Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID. Even more notable is Woodward's assertion that "Obama personally approved of the plan," which was presented.

Jack Lew is now the President's nominee for Treasury Secretary, and Woodward reports that in his confirmation hearings in the Senate, when asked about proposing the sequester, Lew went into "denial mode." The American people are tired of denial mode, Mr. Speaker. We need a serious plan to replace the President's sequester, and it needs to come from the other side of the aisle.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1705

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

NEIL A. ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER AND HUGH L. DRYDEN AERONAUTICAL TEST RANGE DESIGNATION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 667) to redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 667

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION OF DRYDEN FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Hugh L. Dryden Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, is redesignated as the "NASA Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the flight research center referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "NASA Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center".

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION OF WESTERN AERONAUTICAL TEST RANGE.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Western Aeronautical Test Range in California is redesignated as the "NASA Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the test range referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "NASA Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 667, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?